

The Unfortunate Voyage.

Or, a Full and True

ACCOUNT

OF

Fifty Eight Persons.

Who were Drowned as they were coming from *Maidstone Fair* to *London*, in the *Gravesend Tilt-Boat*.

With a particular List of those that are known, with their Names and Places where they lived.

As Also, an Account of Two *Blackwall-Wheries*, which were Cast away the same Evening, with the loss of Thirty Passengers.

Licensed according to Order.

Innumerable and various are the Ways whereby God manifests his Eminent and Powerful Works to Mortals here below, and that sometimes by Dreadful Examples of his Judgments as well as Mercies, as this dismal Relation following sufficiently intimates.

On *Thursday* last, being the 3d of this Instant *February*, 1698. Mr. *James Stainer*, Master of the *Gravesend Tilt-Boat*, with *Roberts Plasterer* and three other Water-men belonging to the said Boat set out from thence with about 65 Passengers, most of whom had been at *Maidstone Fair*, till the Weather was at that time very troublesome and tempestuous; however they proceeded on their Voyage in order for *London*, without any manifest appearance of hazard or danger. As they came into *Long-reach*, at which place there being a streight and sudden Turn in the River the Sails being then up, and the Stay-Line tied fast to the Sterage, manifest and great danger suddenly approached, and was rendered the more terrible by the strength and violence of the Wind, which then seemed to encrease more and more, insomuch that several Passengers, especially the Women began to cry out, the which put Mr. *Stainer*, (who was of a passionate humour) into a Rage, telling them, That he defy'd any Wind, and that he could make as big Wind with his Britch, and likewise used this Expression, viz. *Blow Devil, blow*, &c. with the addition of some Oaths and Curses; And tho' all the Passengers with one Consent begg'd of him to cut the Stay-Line, in order to let down the Sails, yet so obstinate was he that he would not suffer it to be done, which occasioned Dreadful Effects to ensue, for just as they endeavoured to turn the Boat, the Wind being then extream boisterous and violent, overturn'd it, and that suddenly and unexpectedly, that the Tilt which was over it, intirely prevented those who were capable of Swimming, from getting out of the Boat in order thereto: for by the sudden overthrow thereof, the Passengers and Goods were in great disorder one upon another, and still were confin'd within the Tilt, otherwise many who were there, especially the Sailors might happily have saved their Lives by Swimming, there being Twelve of them that belonged to the *Torbay* who perished in this unhappy Disaster, in company of 46 other Passengers; so that the whole Number of Men, Women and Children, who were partakers in the unhappy Fate of this unfortunate Voyage, amounts to 58, there being only seven Persons saved out of Threescore and Five, which was four Passengers, and three that belonged to the Tilt-Boat, one of them being a Boy who saved himself by Swimming, as did also a Doctor of Physick and a Soldier, who were two of the Passengers that escaped.

A Young Man near *Holborn Bridge*, had the good Fortune (tho' he was actually in the same Boat) to differ with the Master about his Fare, insomuch that a pair of Oars coming by, he left the Boat and went with them, and so miraculously avoided the dismal effects which suddenly after attended the Vessel.

The same Evening this Accident happened, there was driven on Shore near *Putney*, seven Women and three Men, one of whom having his Wife in his Arms, so fast closed together that they could be hardly seperated; but all these persons are yet unknown. I am inform'd by credible Persons, that nine or ten more are driven on shore at or near *Northfleet*.

the Persons who perished by the devouring Waves as, aforesaid, who are already known by Name, are only these following, which I shall particularize, *Mr. Thomas Waker*, viz. a Cheesmonger who lived in *Tooley-Street* over against *Barnaby-Street* End, who was a very Eminent Man, being at *Maidstone* Fair in order to bring up some Goods, had the hard fate as to be one of the aforesaid unhappy Number, altho' he had the offer of a Horse at *Graves-end*, he refused it; because (as some think) he was not willing to give two Shillings for his Hire; his Death is much lamented, especially by his Wife and Daughter, and indeed by all his Neighbours, he having been a very honest and peaceable Man throughout the whole course of his Life.

The next unhappy Person who made his untimely Exit by his unfortunate accident was *Mr. Tronton* an eminent Joyner in *Coleman-Street* near the *Bell-Inn*, who went to visit his Wives Brother before his Voyage to the *Indies*, who coming back met with the aforesaid fate. *Robert Watford* and *Robert Hall* both Porters on *Old-Fish-street-Hill* being sent to *Graves-End* by *Mr. Crouch*, a Dancing Master, to fetch his Apprentice back, who was gone from him, had the like dismal fate; as had also the Young Man whom they design'd to bring to his Master again. *Mr. James Stainer*, Master of the Tilt-Boat, and his Man *Robert Plasterer* also perished by this Disasterous accident, as did also *Robert Stratford* a Fish-monger who went to bring up some Fish from *Graves-end*. One *Mr. Williams*, who kept the Sign of the *Two Cunnies* in *Chatham* was one of the aforesaid unfortunate Number. likewise *Mr. Daniel Margret* of *Poppler* with his Wife, his Son, two Daughters and his Man being, all his whole-Family, Except the Maid who was let at home, were Drowned in the aforesaid dismal and unhappy Voyage. *Mr. Robert Evans*, came from *Caterbury*, in order to see his Mother, who Lives in *High-Holbourn*, whom he had not seen in Seven Years, had the unhappiness likewise to be Drowned.

This unhappy and dismal Disaster happned near one of the Clock in the After-noon the Wind being then extraordinary Strong and Boisterous, to that degree that the like has not been known in the memory of Man, in these parts, therefore tis thought it was a *Hurricane*; And that which renders this accident the more Remarkable and Wonderful, is that a *Graves-end* Tilt-Boat has not miscarried in this Nature above this 116 years, about which time 'tis recorded that there was one cast away near the same place with the loss of 40 Passengers, it being in the Reign of *Queen Elizabeth*.

But here's a further scene of misfortune for about 6 a Clock the same Evening that the Tilt-Boat was lost, Two *Blackwall* wherries coming up the aforesaid Reach, the one having 17 Passengers, and the other 13 in them, the Wind or rather an *Hurricane* was so Dreadfully violently and furious that Notwithstanding all the Endeavours that could be used, they were turn'd both upsidedown, so that most of them was Drowned, it being something Darkish, which rendred their escape more difficult.

These and many other of God's Judgments are sent us as Warnings, in order to awaken our dull and drowsie Apprehensions, that we might make suitable Improvements thereof, and that our Lives and Conversations may be reform'd and bettered thereby.

F I N I S.